SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...but I'm not exactly certain as to where we're going. I guess I'm most concerned with the idea that we are moving in a direction where no one knows where we are headed.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: (Response inaudible.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate close? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I understand making this motion may be perceived, outside this body, that I don't understand the problem of property tax. The problem of property tax for agriculture is not unique to agriculture, it is unique to any occupation that requires a high capital investment in real property for persons gainfully employed. That is the problem with property tax. Agriculture, and we could all name other ways of making a living that have a high capital investment. Yes, property taxes are a tremendous burden for agriculture, as they are for others. And, yes, we need to make some changes. My real concern, however, with this constitutional amendment I didn't mention in my opening, my real concern is I don't think you're going to do, even those of us in agriculture, you may support it, we're not going to do what we think we're doing. The reason we're not going to do it is because of the equal protection clause of the federal Constitution. In 1978, I think it was, we had a special session and I had a constitutional amendment that related to property tax. It went on the ballot, it was passed, it was taken to the courts and was thrown out in violation of the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. That one you cannot get around. There is no way to get around the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution, nor should there be. I think that there are ways in which earning...the ability to earn from property can be reflected and still retain uniformity. I'm going to go ahead with the vote because I do think this issue is